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Senator Dianne Feinstein

of California

Senator Feinstein Asks President Bush to Make Federal Funding Available for Damages Suffered in the San Simeon Earthquake

January 9, 2004

Washington D.C. - U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-Calif.) today requested that President Bush declare San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara counties a major disaster area due to serious damage caused by the San Simeon earthquake on December 22, 2003. This would make federal funding available to those who suffered damage from the earthquake.

In a letter to President Bush, Senator Feinstein wrote: **"I am writing to request that you declare a major disaster for the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara as a result of the damage caused by the San Simeon earthquake on December 22, 2003.**

The 6.5 magnitude earthquake caused an estimated \$55 million in damage to public property and destroyed 290 homes and 191 businesses. Particularly hard hit was the city of Paso Robles, in San Luis Obispo County, where two individuals lost their lives, and there was extensive damage to residential properties, historical and public buildings, and public utility structures. I have had numerous calls from constituents who have suffered major losses to their homes and communities. Total costs in damages to the counties of San Luis Obispo and Santa Barbara are expected to exceed \$300 million.

It is my understanding that Governor Schwarzenegger has already made a formal request for federal assistance so that the communities most affected by the earthquake can be made eligible for hazard mitigation grant funds, Small Business Association (SBA) loans, and Individual Assistance and Public Assistance programs. I respectfully urge you to approve the request as quickly as possible.

Thank you for your assistance."

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